

ABSTRACT

5 A transvenous implantable medical device adapted for implantation in a body,
and which is particularly adapted for use in a vessel such as the coronary sinus or
cardiac great vein. The implantable medical device may take the form of a lead or
catheter, and includes an extendable distal fixation member such as a helix. In one
embodiment, the fixation member is a helix constructed of a shape memory metal or
10 other super-elastic material. Upon deployment, the helix assumes a predetermined
helix shape larger than the diameter of the lead body diameter. The helix functions to
wedge or fix the lead within the vessel in a manner that does not impede the flow of
blood through the vessel. The helix may be retracted for ease of repositioning and/or
removal. In one embodiment of the invention, the fixation member may be advanced
15 using a stiffening member such as a stylet. In another embodiment, the helix is
coupled to a coiled conductor such that rotation of the conductor extends or retracts
the helix. According to yet another aspect of the invention, a helix lumen including a
flexible fluid-tight seal may be utilized to house the helix when it is in the retracted
20 position.